Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LISBON 00149 091130Z

15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OPIC-03 AF-06 IO-11 SAJ-01 OMB-01 /082 W
---------- 031468
P R 090945Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5575
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 149

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO
SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON POLITICAL SITUATION

SUMMARY. AZEVEDO TOLD ME JANUARY 8 HE WAS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT POLITICAL SITUATION. CABINET RESHUFFLE HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND ELECTIONS WERE SET. COMMUNISTS WOULD TRY TO SUBVERT ELECTIONS, BUT HE DID NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THIS. HE WAS CONCERNED BY PS-PPD SQUABBLING AND BY GROWING THREAT FROM FAR RIGHT WHICH COULD OFFER ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNISTS. HIS GOVERNMENT WILL SOLVE PROBLEM OF AZORES BY GRANTING SUB-STANTIAL AUTONOMY, PROVIDING USG CONTINUES ITS POLICY OF NOT SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE GROUPS. END SUMMARY.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LISBON 00149 091130Z

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

1. I MET WITH PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO AT MY REQUEST FOR
A GENERAL EXCHANGE ON JANUARY 8. HE WAS QUITE OPTIMISTIC
ABOUT POLITICAL SITUATION. SAID ORGAINIZATION OF COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS HAD NOW BEEN RESOLVED, ALTHOUGH PARTIES CONTINUED
TO FIGHT OVER MINOR JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES. A FIRM
DECISION HAD BEEN MADE BY THE COUNCIL TO PROCEED WITH ELECTIONS. THE
PCP OPPOSED ELECTIONS BUT PRIME MINISTER WAS NOT INCLINED
TO GIVE THEM LEEWAY TO ENGAGE IN THE KIND OF SUBVERSIVE
TACTICS THEY HAD USED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. IF THEY TYR
ANYTHING, HE SAID, "I INTEND TO MOVE FIRST."

2. PS-PPD FEUD: I TOLD PRIME MINISTER ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS
THAT I WAS BECOMING CONCERNED BY ESCALATING FEUD BETWEEN SOARES
AND SA CARNEIRO. AZEVEDO SAID HE SHARED MY CONCERN, AND IN-
TENDED TO TALK TO BOTH LEADERS. HE ADDED THAT ANYTHING I
COULD DO TO URGE THEM TO BURY THEIR DIFFERENCES WOULD BE
HELPFUL. I SAID I WOULD TRY.

3. EXTREME RIGHT: AZEVEDO SAID HE WAS ALSO WORRIED ABOUT
A RECENT SURGE OF ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE EXTREME RIGHT.
HE REFERRED TO EFFORTS TO MOBILIZE PEASANTS IN THE NORTH
AND MENTIONED THE RALLY SCHEDULED AT BRAGA ON THE 11TH OF
JANUARY. IN HIS VIEW IF THE FAR RIGHT STIRS UP UNREST THIS
WILL OFFER A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COMMUNISTS. HE WORRIED
ABOUT AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN IN WHICH OPPOSITION POLARIZED AROUND
THE COMMUNISTS AND THE FAR RIGHT. "PORTUGAL NEEDS TO
AVOID BOTH FASCISM AND COMMUNISM," HE SAID. I ASSURED HIM
USG SYMPATHIZED WITH THIS PHILOSOPHY.

4. I ASKED WHAT HE MEANT BY THE FAR RIGHT. HE SAID SOME
SPINOLA SUPPORTERS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES IN THE
NORTH. I INQUIRED IF ANY OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WERE
IMPLICATED. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN WORRIED ABOUT "ONE WING OF
THE PPD" BUT HIS FEARS HAD BEEN UNFOUNDED. THE PPD WAS A
DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NOR WAS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THAT THE CDS
WAS INVOLVED WITH THE RIGHTWING GROUPS.

5. AZORES: I REFERRED TO RUMORS THAT US POLICY TOWARDS
THE AZORES HAD CHANGED, AND ASSURED PRIME MINISTER THAT THIS
WAS NOT THE CASE. AZEVEDO SAID HE HAD HEARD THESE REPORTS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LISBON 00149 091130Z

BUT DID NOT BELIEVE THEM. AZOREAN INDEPENDENCE WOULD BE
A HEADACHE FOR THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD PLAY INTO THE HANDS
OF THE COMMUNISTS HERE. WHY SHOULD THE US SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE
WHEN IT HAS USE OF THE BASE NOW? HE HAD HEARD, HOWEVER, THAT
SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD THEIR EYE ON THE AZORES. HE
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED FRANCE. I SAID I COULD NOT SPEAK FOR
FRANCE, BUT I ASSURED HIM THAT US POLICY REMAINED THAT THE
AZORES WAS A MATTER TO BE RESOLVED BY THE GOP. AZEVEDO SAID

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

THAT THE AZOREANS WERE NOT HOSTILE TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE INTENDED TO GRANT THEM A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE OF AUTONOMY. HE WAS CONFIDENT HE COULD RESOLVE THE AZORES PROBLEM AS LONG AS THE USG CONTINUED TO REFUSE SUPPORT FOR THE SEPARATIST GROUPS.

6. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER WAS CLEARLY INTERESTED IN AZORES AND SPENT A LOT OF TIME DISCUSSING THE SUBJECT. HIS ATTITUDE WAS ONE OF CONFIDENCE IN US AND IN HIS ABILITY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. HIS CONCERN ABOUT FAR RIGHT ACTIVITIES IS WELL TAKEN. I SHARE HIS VIEW THAT EXTREMIST AGITATION IN THE NORTH COULD BE EXPLOITED BY THE COMMUNISTS. THERE IS EVEN A SCHOOL OF THOUGHT HERE THAT COMMUNIST STRATEGY IS TO PRESS FOR AN EXTREME RIGHT-WING GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD AFFORD THEM NEW "REVOLUTIONARY" OPPORTUNITIES.
CARLUCCI

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, AZORES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LISBON00149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED PER 78 LISBON 1630
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0312
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760172/aaaaclwc.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ON POLITICAL SITUATION SUMMARY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, US, (AZEVEDO, JOSE PINHEIRO DE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006